

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 06449 241324Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 MCT-01 AID-05

SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 SSC-01 OMB-01

CPR-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 /099 W
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P R 241201Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9720

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

/USIA WASHDC 1054

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6449

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SEPT. 24 SYRIAN MEDIA PRAISE SARKIS INAUGURATION

1. SYRIAN MEDIA WELCOMED INAUGURATION OF PRES. SARKIS AND
PRAISED SPEECH HE DELIVERED ON OCCASION OF OATH SESSION.
PRESS BANNERED: "PRES. SARKIS TAKES CONSTITUTIONAL OATH AND
OUTLINED BROAD LINES OF HIS POLICY. IN SPEECH, LEBANESE
PRES. LAUDS SYRIA'S HONORABLE POSITION TOWARD LEBANESE EVENTS
AND AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO LEBANON'S UNITY AND ITS ARAB
AFFILIATION."

2. INAUGURAL SPEECH WAS RE-BROADCAST BY DAMASCUS RADIO.
CONCERNING SPEECH, PRESS COMMENTED THAT "SARKIS POLICY AS
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 06449 241324Z

HE OUTLINED IT BASED UPON CONDEMNING PLOT, OPENING UP DIALOGUE,

ON EQUALITY AMONG ALL LEBANESE AND ON FACT THAT LEBANON IS INTEGRAL PART OF ARAB NATION. HIS SPEECH CONSTITUTES CONFIRMATION OF PRINCIPLED LINE FOLLOWED BY SYRIA." PRESS ALSO REFERRED TO SARKIS PLEDGE TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

3. MEDIA REPORTED TEXT OF CONGRATULATORY CABLE SENT BY PRES. ASAD TO SARKIS EXPRESSING HOPE THAT HIS INAUGURATION WOULD MARK "START OF NEW STAGE IN LEBANON OF WELFARE, LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD IN WHICH EFFORTS WOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD PUTTING FINAL END TO FIGHTING AND TOWARD RECONSTRUCTION WITHIN FRAME WORK OF STRONG NATIONAL UNITY." ASAD REAFFIRMED SYRIA'S SUPPORT FOR LEBANON'S SECURITY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. PRIME MINISTER KHULAYFAWI ALSO CABLED TO SARKIS BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS OF HIS NATIONAL MISSION.

4. PRESS NOTED STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR SARKIS MADE BY VARIOUS LEBANESE POLITICIANS, WHO ALSO PRAISED SYRIAN EFFORTS TO ASSIST LEBANON AND TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

5. COMMENT: REMARKS BY SARKIS REFERRING TO PRESENCE OF SYRIAN FORCES ON LEBANESE TERRITORY AS SUBJECT TO CONSTITUTIONAL LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AND ASAD'S REAFFIRMATION OF LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY SERVE AS USEFUL INITIAL EXCHANGE ON THESE TOPICS OF CONCERN. SYRIAN MEDIA, HOWEVER, HAVE MADE NO MENTION OF QUADRIPARTITE MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 24, NOR HAS ANY REFERENCE BEEN MADE TO ARAFAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNILATERAL PALESTINIAN CEASEFIRE.
MURPHY

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